

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) congratulated Xerox CEO Ursula Burns on her appointment by President Obama to lead the group tasked with increasing U.S. exports.

Burns, who lives near Rochester, was selected by Obama this week to serve as Vice Chair of the President's Export Council.

"It is outstanding to see an impressive woman appointed to such an important position" said Slaughter. "I have known Ursula for many years and everyone in this community is aware of the outstanding work she has done at Xerox. I'm so proud that she's been selected to do great things for our country."

"As a Western New Yorker, Ursula will bring valuable perspective to our national trade challenge. She and I both know that America needs to reduce our trade deficit and increase exports. We've lost our competitive edge in manufacturing and I strongly believe that a nation can't be a superpower if they don't make anything."

Slaughter has long been a leader on trade issues. She is a member of the House Trade Working Group which met with Trade Representative Ron Kirk earlier in the week.

Most recently, Slaughter introduced the Reciprocal Market Access Act which would ensure that our trade negotiations achieve real and meaningful market access for our producers. She is also a very strong supporter and original cosponsor of the TRADE Act which spells out what should be in trade agreements including standards on: labor, environment, food and product safety, agriculture, human rights, currency anti-manipulation rules, national security, procurement, investment. A summary of both pieces of legislation is below

H.R. 3786, Reciprocal Market Access Act -- introduced by Congresswoman Slaughter

Summary of Bill:

- The legislation is designed to ensure that our trade negotiations achieve real and meaningful market access for our producers.
- Authority to receive or eliminate tariffs in trade agreements is tied to achieving meaningful market access for U.S. domestic producers that have identified and worked with the U.S. government to address those barriers.

To better ensure meaningful market access, the bill requires that the President provide a certification to the Congress in advance of agreeing to a modification of any existing duty on any product, that sectoral reciprocal market access has been obtained.

- This will enhance the partnership with Congress and achieve reciprocal market access.
- It gives the government the automatic negotiated right to revoke concessions to cut tariffs if our trading partners don't implement the commitments they made to open up their markets.
- This authority, known as "snap back" authority, could be triggered by a private sector or Congressional request. The goal – and the result – will be reciprocal market access for our nation's products.

H.R. 3012, TRADE Act -- strongly supported by Congresswoman Slaughter

Summary of the Bill

- The bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a comprehensive review of the major trade pacts that comprise the model on which U.S. trade agreements have been based, such as NAFTA, WTO, Jordan, and CAFTA. The GAO must also report on how the current pacts measure up to the bill's criteria with respect to what must and must not be included in trade pacts.
- The bill spells out what should be in trade agreements including standards on: labor, environment, food and product safety, agriculture, human rights, currency anti-manipulation rules, national security, procurement, investment
- The bill also lists issues that should NOT be in trade agreements including: bans on Buy America, bans on anti-sweatshop rules, new rights for foreign investors to promote off-shoring, service sector privatization and deregulation requirements, special protections for pharmaceutical companies that limit affordable access to drugs.
- Renegotiation: Require the president to submit renegotiation plans for current trade pacts prior to negotiating new agreements and prior to congressional consideration of pending agreements.
- Establishes a Super Committee: The bill establishes a special congressional super committee chaired by the Ways and Means and Finance Committee chairs to work with the President on formulating this plan. The super committee also includes a role for the chairs and ranking members of other committees whose core jurisdiction is directly affected by today's expansive trade pacts.
- Replacing Fast Track: The bill lays out criteria for a new mechanism to replace the anti-democratic Fast Track negotiating process. To obtain agreements that benefit a wider array of interests, this new process includes Congress setting readiness criteria to select future negotiating partners; mandatory negotiating objectives based on the bill's criteria of what must be and must not be in future trade pacts; and the requirements that Congress must certify that the objectives were met, and then vote on an agreement before it can be signed.